

**The Housatonic  
Camera Club**

The Life Long Learning Center  
( Wagner Building )  
Noble Horizons  
17 Cobble Road  
Salisbury CT, 06068

# The Open Aperture



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## The Program for 03/18/2008

### “Fine Tuning Flower Photography”

Fred Orkin will discuss some special requirements of this 'subspecialty', how we meet them with regards to special equipment and methods, and how we exploit some elements of composition to enhance our flower photos. Among the 'added attractions' will be a demonstration of a special lens (Lensbaby) that finds great use in flower photography and was mentioned by a speaker last spring. This presentation is designed to prepare us to exploit Judy's kind invitation to photograph in her greenhouse. We might consider some group visits in which I could bring the Lensbaby lens for folks (with Nikon bodies or use my camera) to try.

### Upcoming

April mtg: We have a special treat -- another return-engagement of a speaker who has provided well-received presentations in prior years.

May mtg: We will view some of the members' images in two designated areas (flowers; water in any physical state), plus a guest-presenter showing his travelogue of images from Israel.

# Photoshop Alternatives

Photoshop has long been the Mercedes Benz of photo editing programs. The downside to this of course is, it is priced accordingly. If you happen to be on a tighter budget however, do not lose heart. Affordable alternatives are out there for you.

1) Picassa by Google, its free, works with PC or Mac, It's really easy to use, which is good

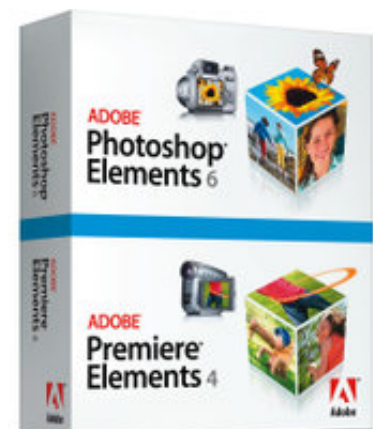


because most people who use it aren't going to be professionals or even advanced amateurs. It will auto update albums when new photos are introduced into the folders. You can move and rename pictures inside Picasa. You can create posters, collages, screensavers, slideshows, burn CDs.– Not bad for Free.

2)Picnic Price:free or \$24.95 for premium version. Great for quick edits like red eye removal, exposure, and saturation. Fast, simple, and intuitive. You really can just start using it. Has some really fun effects. Does not work with camera raw files however.



Adobe Photoshop Elements 6 Price: \$99.99 This is fairly robust and all many photographers ever really need. You can organize- import, tag, sort. Nobody does tagging better than Adobe. Easy to use with great tutorials for newbie's. Three ways to edit: Quick fix, full editing, and guided editing (runs you through a checklist of common editing sequences). Includes layers Creative scrapbook pages, cards, CD/DVD labels, themes, text effects, etc... Flash slideshows are very popular for studio websites. Advanced editing tools will handle most jobs. RAW support. Batch processing.



### **HCC Special Photo Opportunity**

As one of our activities we have decided to select a theme and have participants present theme photos at our year-end May meeting.

Judy Becker has graciously offered her greenhouse and beautiful plants as a photo opportunity to take theme shots.

We may visit individually or in a group, just be sure to check with Judy on the availability.

contact Judy at 869 435 2263 or [JBECKER@MOHAWK.NET](mailto:JBECKER@MOHAWK.NET)

### **Charter Oak Photographic Society, Inc.**

**AN EVENING WITH**

**Gary W. Stanley**

If you remember, last year we had a Saturday session with Gary Stanley that dealt with "*From Capture to Print*" It was a fun and informative day for HCC. He will now be presenting a double program "Image Preparation: The Key to Success" and "Composition and Light: The Key to Success". Hunt's will also be at the meeting for your shopping pleasure. Please come and bring a friend.

## *Shutter to think*

### *5 things to think about before you trip that shutter!*

#### 1. Is my Shutter Speed correct to capture my subject properly?

The key concept here is to capture your subject with the proper degree of sharpness that you're striving to obtain. Whether you want a sharp photo of your subject or to capture motion blur the first thing you'll want to do is make sure you have the proper settings in place. Two (2) settings can impact shutter speed: ISO and aperture.

#### 2. Is my selected Focal Length or my Positioning optimal to capture my subject?

Determining how much you would like your subject to fill your frame is indicated by your choice of focal length and how you position yourself in relation to your subject.

#### 3. Have I chosen the proper Depth of Field to best highlight my subject?

Identifying what is most/least important to your photo and keeping it in/out of focus is critical to keeping your viewers eye on your subject.

#### 4. Is my subject in Focus?

This will seem like a no-brainer, but making sure your subject is in focus is critical.

#### 5. Have I checked the Edges of my frame to minimize distracting elements?

To read this article in depth: go to:

<http://digital-photography-school.com/blog/5-questions-to-ask-yourself-before-tripping-the-shutter/>

## Housatonic Camera Club

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I wish to enroll as a member for one year. Attached is the fee of \$25, and \$10 for each additional immediate family member. Please hand or mail this form to the Head of Membership, Jen Abbott/213 Guilder Hollow Rd./Sheffield, MA 01257. For additional information call Jen Abbott at 413.229.3046  
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We will send you our Monthly News Letter (September to

View the world through our lens!

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